

CLAIMS

~~E 101. A SUB A~~ A data generating device, provided in an electronic endoscope, said device generating an image data corresponding to an object image obtained by said electronic endoscope, and 5 character information including a date when said object image is obtained, said device comprising:

a date-differentiating processor that generates said character information so that, when said date is displayed on a screen of a display device along with said object image, at least 10 one of the year, month, and day is differentiated on said screen.

2. The device according to claim 1, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the year, month, and day to a color or character type different from the others.
- 15 3. The device according to claim 1, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the year, month, and day to a color or character type different from the others only for the period of a date-setting operation.

4. The device according to claim 1, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets a mode of display of the year, 20 month, and day so that said screen differentiates at least one of the month and day, of the displayed year, month, and day.

5. The device according to claim 4, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the month and day, of the 25 year, month, and day displayed by numerals, to a different

color.

6. The device according to claim 4, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the month and day, of the year, month, and day, to a different character type.

5 7. The device according to claim 6, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets the month, of the year, month, and day, as letters.

8. The device according to claim 4, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the month and day, of the 10 year, month, and day displayed by numerals, to a different font.

9. The device according to claim 4, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the month and day, of the year, month, and day to be displayed by numerals, to a different 15 color only for the period of the date setting operation.

10. The device according to claim 4, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets the year, month, and day to be displayed by numerals to respectively different colors.

11. The device according to claim 1, wherein said date to be
20 displayed on said screen can be displayed by at least one display
order of the year, month, and day; month, day, and year; and
day, month, and year.

12. The device according to claim 11, wherein said display
order can be changed on said screen by a switching operation of
25 the display order.

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13. The device according to claim 1, wherein said object image and date to be displayed on said screen are preferably stored as a single image in an image storage device.
14. The device according to claim 13, wherein said object image stored in said image storage device is at least reproduced and displayed on said screen or output as hard copy.
15. The device according to claim 1, further comprising a storing processor that stores said date along with said object image, in an electronic file.
- 10 16. The device according to claim 1, further comprising a display processor that displays said character information, generated by said date-differentiating processor, along with said object image, on said screen.
- 15 17. The device according to claim 16, wherein said display processor comprises a character code output processor that outputs a character code corresponding to said date, and a character signal generating processor that generates a character signal in accordance with said character code output by said character code output processor, said character signal being output, along with a video signal corresponding to said object image, to a monitor provided outside said electronic endoscope, so that said object image is displayed on said screen and said date is displayed at a predetermined position on said screen.
- 20 18. The device according to claim 17, wherein said date-differentiating processor outputs said character code in such a

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manner that one of the year, month, and day, to be differentiated from the others, is displayed in a mode of display which is different from that of the others.

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An electronic endoscope comprising:

5 a display processor that displays a year, month, and day of a date along with an object image on a screen; and
a storing processor that stores said date along with said object image in an image storage device as a single image;
said storing processor storing the year, month, and day
10 so that at least one of the year, month, and day is differentiated on said screen.

20. The electronic endoscope according to claim 19, wherein
said storing processor stores one of the year, month, and day by
a different color or a different character type in said image
15 storage device.

21. The electronic endoscope according to claim 19, wherein
said storing processor stores the year, month, and day in said
image storage device to enable at least the month and day in the
year, month, and day to be differentiated on said screen.

20 22. The electronic endoscope according to claim 21, wherein
said storing processor stores one of the month and day in the
year, month, and day by a different color or different character
type in said image storage device.

23. The electronic endoscope according to claim 21, wherein
25 said storing processor stores the year, month, and day displayed

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- by numerals by different colors in said image storage device.
24. The electronic endoscope according to claim 19, wherein
the date to be displayed on said screen can be displayed by at
least one display order of the year, month, and day; month, day,
and year; and day, month, and year.
25. The electronic endoscope according to claim 24, wherein
the display order can be changed on said screen by a switching
operation of the display order.
26. The electronic endoscope according to claim 19, wherein
said image stored in said image storage device is at least
reproduced and displayed on said screen or output as hard copy.
27. The electronic endoscope according to claim 19, wherein
said storing processor comprises a character code output
processor that outputs a character code corresponding to said
date, and a character signal generating processor that generates
a character signal in accordance with said character code output
by said character code output processor, said character signal
being output, along with a video signal corresponding to said
object image, to said image storage device, so that said date is
stored in said image storage device along with said image.
28. The electronic endoscope according to claim 27, wherein
said storing processor outputs said character code in such a
manner that one of the year, month, and day, to be differentiated
from the others, is displayed in a mode of display which is
different from that of the others.

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29. *(b)* An electronic endoscope comprising:

(b) a display processor that displays a year, month, and day of a date along with an object image on a screen and

5 a date-differentiating processor that sets the mode of display of the year, month, and day to be displayed by said display processor so as to differentiate at least one of the year, month, and day on said screen.

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